



North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE VERLA INSKO

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

56TH DISTRICT

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID
AND NC HEALTH CHOICE

November 28, 2018

Office of the President
2185 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244

Office of the Provost
2200 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244

Dear President Book and Provost House:

Re: Efforts of contingent faculty to form a union at Elon University

North Carolina has long been known for its outstanding system of higher education. Between our public system and private institutions like Elon University, our state has a well-earned reputation as a place where institutions of higher education thrive.

But in recent years, the escalating cost of higher education has marginalized faculty and pushed students deep into debt. This trend is startling. At Elon University, tuition increased 62% between 2006 and 2016 and almost half of the faculty members are off the tenure track. As you know, contingent faculty at Elon are taking steps to reverse these trends by forming a union. By making improvements at Elon, your contingent faculty will help raise standards across the state and nation.

As an elected official, I appreciate the tremendous impact Elon has in shaping young minds, supporting our economy and strengthening our democracy. Your voice matters in our community, and your stance on the faculty union campaign will send a strong message to workers across our state. I encourage you to state clearly that your faculty have every right to come together to democratically organize.



I have seen the positive outcomes associated with an organized faculty working in good faith with a supportive administration. I urge you to follow the lead of administrators at Georgetown University who remained neutral when their contingent faculty formed a union. Duke University leadership, much to their credit, also had a smooth transition to a unionized faculty. I believe the entire Elon community—and indeed, all of Alamance County and the rest of North Carolina—will be well served by your decision to take a fully neutral stance as your faculty organizes.

Sincerely,



Representative Verla Insko
House District 56 – Orange County